

Docket No. 60,130-1004 (96AUT013)

41. (Amended) An automotive vehicle drive unit assembly comprising:

first and second driving axle shafts being co-linear and defining a lateral axis of rotation;

first and second wheel hubs driven by said first and second driving axle shafts respectively about said lateral axis of rotation;

a first gear set for driving said first wheel hub;

a second gear set for driving said second wheel hub;

first and second planetary gear sets driven by said first and second gear sets about said lateral axis of rotation;

a first electric motor for driving said first gear set and defining a first longitudinal axis of rotation that is transverse to said lateral axis of rotation;

a second electric motor for driving said second gear set and defining a second longitudinal axis of rotation that is transverse to said lateral axis of rotation and spaced apart from said first longitudinal axis of rotation;

a third electric motor in parallel driving relationship with said first electric motor to drive said first gear set; and

a fourth electric motor in parallel driving relationship with said second electric motor to drive said second gear set wherein said first and third electric motors drive said first gear set and said second and fourth electric motors drive said second gear set independently from each other.

43. (Amended) An assembly as set forth in Claim 41, wherein said first gear set is housed within a first gearbox mounted to said first and third electric motors and said second gear set is housed within a second gearbox mounted to said second and fourth electric motors

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48. (Amended) A vehicle comprising:

a vehicle body extending between lateral sides, passenger seats being mounted adjacent each of said lateral sides, a floor defined beneath said passenger seats, an aisle defined between said passenger seats, and said floor also extending beneath said aisle;

at least one driving axle for driving a pair of laterally spaced wheels including a first drive axle shaft associated with the first of said wheels, and a second drive axle shaft associated with the second of said wheels, said first and second drive axle shafts defining a lateral axis of rotation;

a first and second gear set for driving said first and second wheels;

a first and second planetary gear set driven by said first and second gear sets about said lateral axis of rotation;

a first electric motor mounted at a non-parallel angle relative to said axis of rotation of said first drive axle shaft for driving said first gear set, and a second electric motor mounted at a non-parallel angle relative to said axis of rotation of said second drive axle shaft and operatively connected to drive said second gear set; and

said electric motors being mounted adjacent to said wheels at a vertical position which is higher than a vertical position of the floor of said aisle.

50. (Amended) A vehicle as set forth in Claim 49, wherein said first planetary gear set is driven by said first and third electric motors via said first gear set for speed reduction at said first wheel and said second planetary gear set is driven by said second and fourth electric motors via said second gear set for speed reduction at said second wheel.